

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). A method of cleaning and coating a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

cleaning by generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing the ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam of electrons onto the base body;

controlling an outgoing flow of the electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching frequency; [and]

coating the metallic base body;

continuing the cleaning step during at least a part of the coating step; and

selecting the given frequency from the group consisting of an adjustable frequency and a regulated frequency.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim [1] 2, which further comprises alternately opening and closing the switch to define an outgoing flux of the electrons in an electric outgoing line connected to the base body.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). A The method of ~~cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method according to claim 2, which further~~ comprises:

~~generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body,~~

~~directing an electron beam onto the base body,~~

~~controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching frequency by~~

~~adjusting the switching frequency in a range from 3-Hz a minimum in a hertz range to a maximum of 27 MHz.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A The method of ~~cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method according to claim 4, which further~~ comprises:

~~generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions,  
accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions  
into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body,~~

~~directing an electron beam onto the base body; and~~

~~controlling an outgoing flux of electrons by adjusting a the  
switching frequency to substantially 50 kHz.~~

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, which further comprises controlling ~~an~~ the outgoing flux of  
the electrons such that a bias voltage of substantially  
between 100 V and 1000 V is established between the  
electrically positively charged plasma and the base body.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, which further comprises determining a bias voltage between  
the electrically positively charged ions of the plasma and the  
base body.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, wherein the generating step comprises generating the plasma  
with the electron beam.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, which further comprises forming the plasma with a gas  
~~selected from the group consisting of inert gas and reactive~~  
gas.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, which further comprises forming the plasma with a noble  
gas.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, which further comprises forming the plasma with argon.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim  
10 31, which comprises forming the plasma with ~~the reactive~~  
gas hydrogen.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). A ~~The method of cleaning a~~  
~~surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method~~  
according to claim 2, which further comprises:

initially heating the article without a gas for forming a  
plasma; and

adding the gas for forming the plasma;

~~generating the plasma from the gas with electrically  
positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the  
article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for  
cleaning the base body;~~

~~directing an electron beam onto the base body; and~~

~~controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact  
with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference  
potential via a switch at a given switching frequency.~~

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim  
14, which further comprises heating the article by irradiation  
with the electrons.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, which further comprises, concurrently with cleaning the  
article, heating the article to a coating temperature.

Claim 17 (Original). The method according to claim 16, which  
comprises heating the article to a coating temperature of over  
800°C.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 1  
2, which further comprises providing a gas turbine component

as the article and cleaning a surface of the gas turbine component.

Claim 19 (Original). The method according to claim 18, which comprises selecting the gas turbine component from the group consisting of a turbine blade and a heat shield element.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 12, which further comprises rotating the article about an axis of rotation.

Claim 21-23 (Canceled).

Claims 24-29 (Withdrawn).

Claim 30 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the gas is an inert gas.

Claim 31 (New). The method according to claim 10, wherein the gas is a reactive gas.

Claim 32 (New). The method according to claim 2, which further comprises adjusting the switching frequency to a maximum of 27 MHz.

Claim 33 (New). The method according to claim 2, which further comprises continuously regulating the switching

09-16-'03 15:04 FROM-Lerner & Greenberg

+9549251101

T-088 P10/16 U-695

GR 98 P 3829 P

frequency throughout the cleaning step and the part of the  
coating step.